INTERSECTION OF DISABILITY AND ABUSE

APRIL 11, 2022

WELCOME

ASL, captions, and

language interpreters will be provided today.









EFFECTIVE & INCLUSIVE COMMUNICATION



- Verify that your microphone is muted when others are speaking during the meeting.
- Always speak slowly and clearly.
- Utilize the "raise hand" or chat feature for your questions and comments.
- Always take turns when speaking.

SCHEDULE



Training #I – March 21 (Housing)

Training #2- April 11 (The intersection of disability and abuse)

Training #3 – May 23 (Technology and effective communication)

THE ENABLE PROJECT





This training is brought to you by the Enable Project, a coalition that brings together non-profit and social justice organizations and their staff to create channels for integration of people with disabilities within their organizations and movements.

MINDFULNESS

Chaplain Beyssa Buil



Introduction -

Creating a safe space for triggering discussions A place to be seen and heard

Website: www.greyteakettle.com

Email: chaplainbeyssa@greyteakettle.com

"SACRED SPACE"

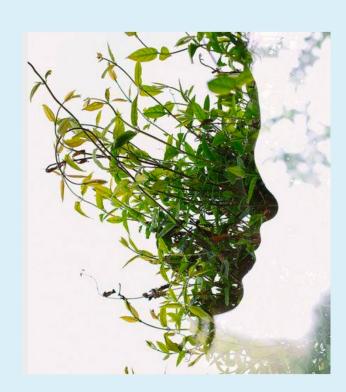
This will be a safe place.

This will be a sacred and holy place.

A place without time.

A place where we are all welcome.

Feel seen, heard and supported.



SPEAKERS

Deborah Dietz, DIG

MIA Liaisons (Genesis, Kat, Carmen, & Rachel)

Chaplain Beyssa Buil

Retired Judge Rosa Figarola

Nilo A. Cuervo, Office of the State Attorney







INTRODUCTION



VIDEO 1 (HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/NPGJELTBERO)



MIAMI INCLUSION ALLIANCE (MIA)



MIA YouTube Channel

VIDEO 2 (HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/KX6VOBSB7A0)

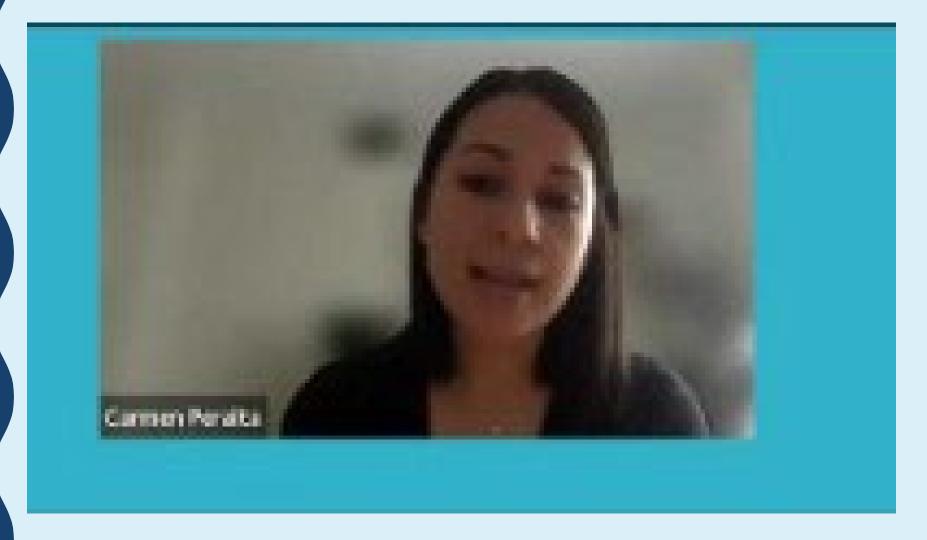
Kat Magnoli



DISABILITY & ABUSE

people with disabilities are more likely to experience abuse than people without them

VIDEO 3 (HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/FD4PHI-F8XK)

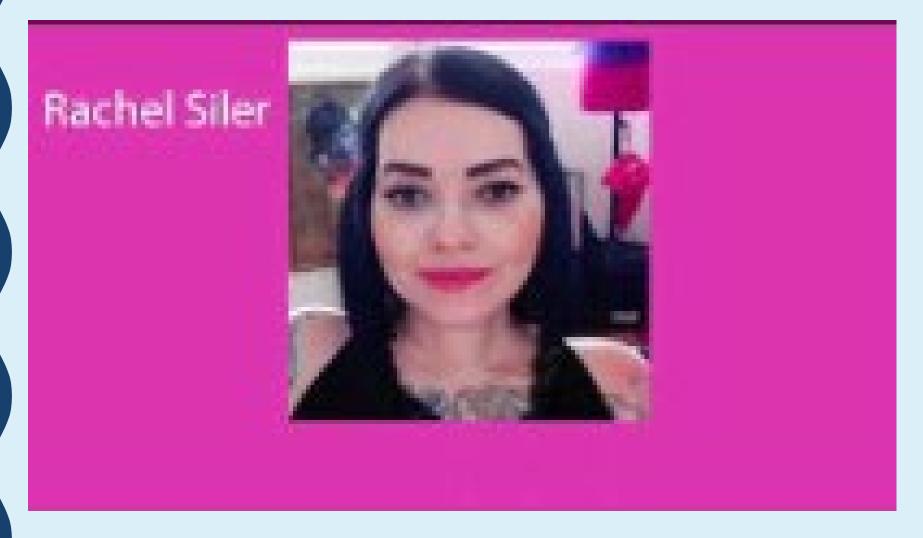


REMEMBER



If you are triggered, we are here to help and listen.

VIDEO 4 (HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/-C2ILJXB3NI)

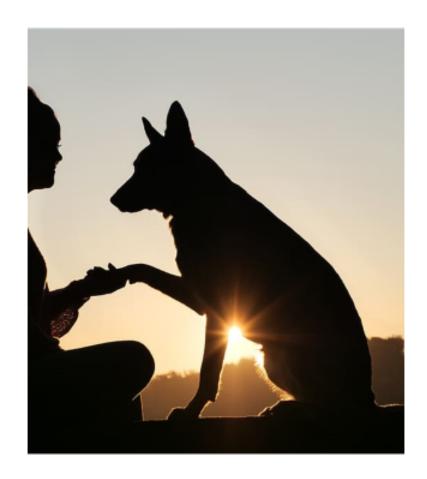


The Link Between
Domestic Violence and
Animal Cruelty

April 11, 2022

- Presenter:
- Rosa Figarola
- Retired Circuit Court Judge
- Eleventh Judicial Circuit Miami-Dade County





Learning Objectives

- Understand the human/animal "bond"
- Understand the link between interpersonal violence and animal abuse
- Understand the significance of recognizing the link in order to promote safer and healthier environments for humans and their animal companions

For purposes of this presentation, concepts and resources apply to

- Elders
- Persons with disabilities
- Vulnerable and at-risk adults

 The terms will be used interchangeably to include all groups





Understanding Link is understanding link

- between an elder and their pet and generations in a family
- between inhumane treatment of animals and inhumane treatment of elders
- between the agencies and individuals concerned about the welfare of elders, the safety of the community, and fair and equal justice for all involved





[∞]‰ The Link ∰ ∯



What do we know about the link between humans and animals?

Pets influence the lives of elders

- Positively impact physical health and reduce stress
- Gives the elder something to "care about" and "care for"
- Elders look to their pets for support, comfort & security
- Pets provide greater life satisfaction
- Pets help elders cope better with loss and grief
- Benefits of therapy pets in nursing homes





Domestic Violence and Pets

- For many battered survivors, pets may be a significant source of emotional and social support and buffers against the aggression surrounding them
- Companion animals may provide physical protection from the abuser
- While survivors frequently excuse their batterers' actions upon themselves, they may find it harder to ignore acts of violence against animals

Human-Animal Bond

- The human-animal bond is a mutually beneficial and dynamic relationship between people and animals that is influenced by behaviors essential to the health and wellbeing of both.
- This includes, among other things, emotional, psychological, and physical interactions of people, animals, and the environment.







What do we know about the link between animal cruelty and all forms of interpersonal violence?



Significance of Recognizing the Bond and Link to Abuse

Animal Abuse is the "tip of the iceberg" and is often the first sign of other forms of violence.

Animal Abuse and Interpersonal Violence DV batterers may specifically choose pets as targets because they believe law enforcement doesn't care and/or they can get away with it



More than half of DV survivors report delaying escape from an abusive partner out of fear for their companion animal

The "Original" Domestic Violence Power and Control Wheel



The "wheel" can apply to all forms of violence against humans and animals

Violence is Violence

Tactics used by abusers in Elder Abuse situations

http://s3-us-east-2.amazonaws.com/ncall/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/11123539/NCALL ALL Power Control Wheel 2016.pdf

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological and emotional abuse
- Targets vulnerabilities & neglects
- Ridicules personal & cultural values and denies access to spiritual & traditional events
- Misleads, excludes and prevents access to family members
- Isolates
- Uses privilege
- · Exploits financially
- Threatens



Additional Factors Impacting Violence

Guns

COVID

Natural Disasters

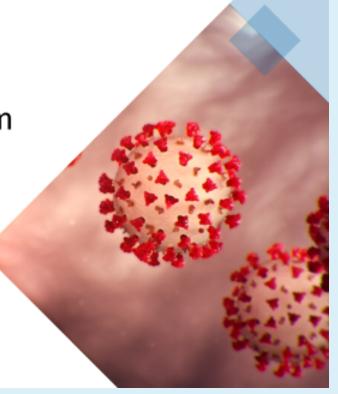


Guns

- Over half of all intimate partner homicides are committed with guns
- A victim is five times more likely to be murdered when her abuser has access to a gun

COVID-19

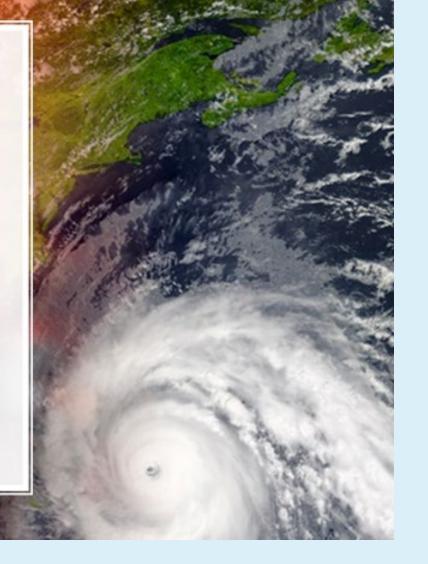
- ➤ Increased difficulty investigating cases
- ➤ Difficulty and delays in placements when relocation is necessary
- ➤ Extended hospital stays because assisted living facilities won't take them
- ➤ Reduction of available placement
- ➤ Adult day care facilities are closed
- ➤ Doctors doing "remote" visits
- Increase in emotional and financial abuse



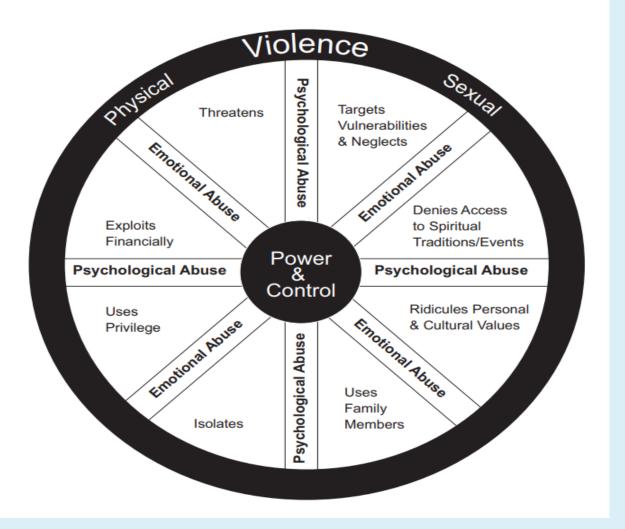
Not just COVID ...

Vulnerable humans and animals are also affected by:

- Natural Disasters
 - Hurricanes
 - Fire
 - Floods
- Unexpected financial challenges
- Ripple effect of stay-at-home and social distancing mandates



Abuse in Later Life Power & Control Wheel



The "Power and Control Wheel" of Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence

Isolation Emotional

PULLES

COMMENCE

Blaming

Threats

Legal

Abuse

Abuse

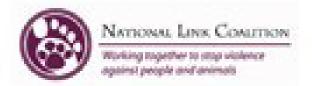
Using:

Children

Economic

Intimidation

Abuse



Isolation: Refusing to allow her to take her pet to her vet. Prohibiting her from socializing her dog with other dogs.

Threats: To harm or kill her pet if she leaves or asserts any independence.

Legal Abuse: Custody battles over pets. Filing theft charges if she leaves with the pet.

Denying & Blaming: Blaming her or the pet for his cruelty. Killing the pet and saying it didn't matter because the pet was old. or killing pets to take away her source of unconditional love. Forced participation in animal sexual abuse.

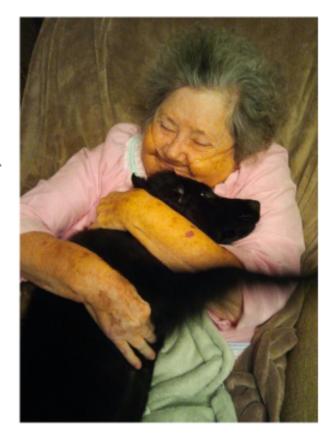
> Economic Abuse: Refusing to allow her to spend money on pet food or vet care.

Intimidation: Harming or killing pet: "Next time it'll be you..." Targeting pets of family/friends who aid her escape.

Using Children: Harming/killing children's pets to intimidate them. Blaming the "disappearance" of the family pet on her to create a wedge between her and the children.

EXPLOITING THE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND:

- Pets become pawns in the dynamic of power and control
- Animals may be threatened, tortured, killed, or denied care
- Animals may be used as an instrument for power and control, or may be used as tools of financial exploitation or extortion
- Perpetrator's actions may be selfish, retaliatory, or based on frustration of caregiving
- Jealousy over service animal or emotional support animal
- Animals can be taken away, allowed to escape or sent to animal shelters to be euthanized as ways to intimidate the victim.



™ The Link ∰ Å

- Batterers who also abuse animals are more dangerous and use more forms of controlling and violent behaviors
 - 76% of DV victims whose partners had histories of pet abuse had been strangled
 - 26% had been forced to have sex with suspect
 - 80% feared they would be killed by the suspect



™ The Link மிக்கி



Over 71% of battered women reported that their batterer had harmed, killed or threatened animals to coerce, control and intimidate them



One caseworker's account:

"Her decision to go to the hospital depended on what happened to her cat. Her recovery depended on the cat's well being. So I had to find someone to care for her cat. I never thought that animal welfare would be a part of my job."

్జి The Link 🗥

- When **animals** are abused, **people** are at risk...
- When **people** are abused, **animals** are at risk.



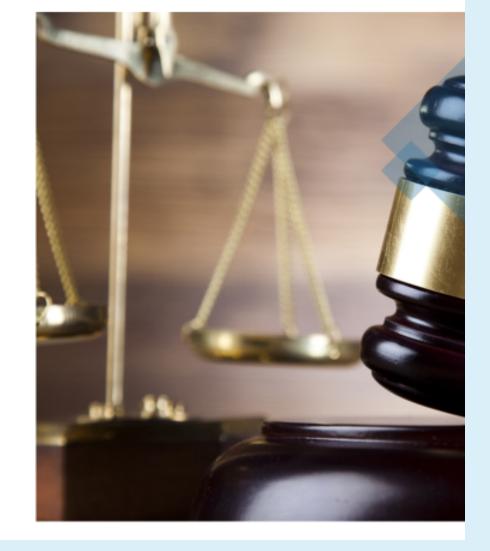
DV INJUNCTION

- ➤ Temporary/permanent injunction can grant exclusive care, possession, control of animal owned, possessed, harbored, kept, or held by the petitioner, the respondent, or a minor child residing in the residence or household of the petitioner or respondent. F.S. 741.30(7)(a)
- Court can order that Respondent have no contact with animal and can prohibit Respondent from taking, transferring, encumbering, concealing, harming or otherwise disposing of animal. F.S. 741.30(7)(a).



DV Injunction

- Excludes animal owned for bona fide agricultural purpose or service animal if respondent is handler. F.S. 741.30(a).
 - Animal trained to perform tasks for individual with a disability. *F.S.* 413.081
- ➤ Court is required to consider whether respondent has intentionally hurt or killed family pet when determining whether there is reasonable cause to believe petitioner is in imminent danger of becoming victim of DV. F.S. 741.30(B)



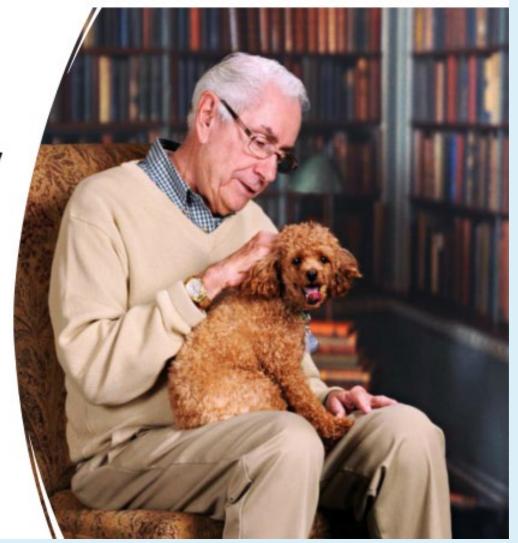
Animals in the courtroom - F.S. 92.55(5)

- Permits a child, sexual battery victim or witness or person with intellectual disability, to testify with the assistance of therapy or facility dog.
- Court must consider relevant factors that would facilitate the testimony
- "Facility dog": a dog that is trained, evaluated and certified pursuant to industry standards and provides unobtrusive emotional support
- "Therapy dog": a dog that is trained, evaluated and certified pursuant to industry standards by an organization that certifies animals as appropriate to provide animal therapy



Housing & Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983, Sec. 227 (12 U.S.C. #1701r-1): Implemented in 24 C.F.R. § 5.300 to .327

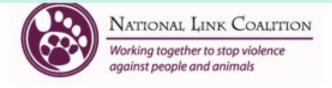
- A disabled individual or an individual over 62 years old can keep "common" household pets in federallyassisted housing for elderly or disabled
- Pet deposits vary on rent subsidy
 - Are capped at \$300 and can be paid in installments



Resources for elders with pets

- Be Proactive!
- Pet care services for elders or those with a chronic illness
- Types of services
- Report suspected animal abuse: http://nationallinkcoalition.org/how-do-i-report-suspected-abuse
- Veterinarians, Veterinary associations, Schools of Veterinary medicine
- Pet loss support groups and 24-hour hotlines
- Mobile groomers, pet sitters, doggie day care

http://nationallinkcoalition.org/





PAGES

- · Home
- . What is the Link
- . The Link in the News
- About Us
- Leadership
- Link Coalitions
- Foreign Coalitions
- Start a Coalition
- Get Involved
- Resources
- Articles, Research Reports and Other Materials
- Resources Other Languages
- . Links to The Link
- Bibliographies
- · Videos and Podcasts
- LINK-Letter Archives
- Training Opportunities
- * FAQs
 - How Are Animal Abuse and Family Violence Linked?
- · Indicators of Violence

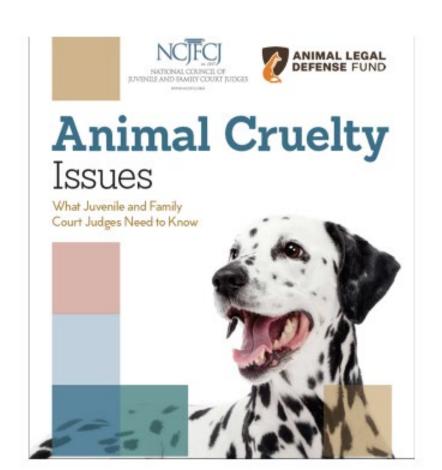
Home

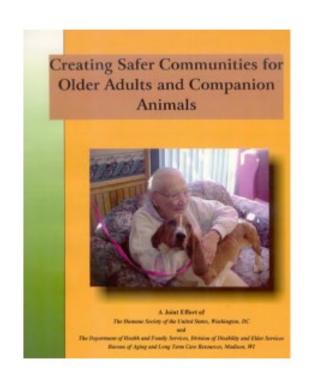


The Link

Over the past 30 years, researchers and professionals in a variety of human services and animal wetfare disciplines have established significant correlations between animal abuse, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, elder abuse and other forms of violence. Mistreating animals is no longer seen as an isolated incident that can be ignored. It is often an indicator or predictor crime and a "red flag" warning sign that other family members in the household may not be safe.







QUESTIONS







Thank you

Rosa Figarola



rosafigarola305@gmail.com



GUIDED BODY SCAN

Reset your nervous system and mindfulness

Reflect for one minute and observe what has come up for you it can be a physical sensation, a memory, emotion, a thought



Gun Violence and Domestic Crimes

Nilo A. Cuervo Miami-Dade County (FL) State Attorney's Office





HOMICIDES IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

** Eleventh Judicial Circuit's Miami-Dade County Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Death Review Team

YEAR	Total # of Homicides in Miami- Dade County (DV & Non-DV-Related) *	Total # of Domestic Violence-Related Homicides in Miami-Dade County	% of Domestic Violence-Related Homicides in Miami-Dade County
1999	228	41	18 %
2000	216	43	20 %
2001	222	42	19 %
2002	227	45	20 %
2003	226	36	16 %
2004	230	45	20 %
2005	185	22	12 %
2006	264	42	16 %
2007	257	21	8 %
2008	261	41	16 %
2009	252	43	17 %
2010	243	42	17 %
2011	250	29	12 %
2012	256	33	13 %
2013	267	32	12 %
2014	243	22	9 %
2015	250	30	12 %
2016	231	37	16 %
2017	228	21	9 %
2018	222	30	14 %
2019	241	30	12 %
2020	287	33	II %
2021**	249	40	16 %

DOMESTIC HOMICIDE FACTS

 More than twice as many women are killed by their husbands or boyfriends than are murdered by strangers.

 Firearms are frequent weapons leading to mortality rates of women killed by their spouses, boyfriends or others.

DOMESTIC HOMICIDE FACTS (CON'T)

• The effects of firearm-related domestic violence last long beyond the actual crime. Research on child witnesses of marital violence indicates that children who observed incidents of domestic violence involving the use or threat of a firearm exhibited higher levels of behavior problems than children who did not.

MORE FACTS

 Each year, an estimated 3.3 million children are exposed to violence by family members against their mothers or female caretakers.

• In homes where partner abuse occurs, children are 1,500 times more likely to be abused.

40-60% of men who abuse women also abuse children.

MORE FACTS (CON'T)

 When children are killed during a domestic dispute, 90% are under age 10, and 56% are under age 2.

 National research indicates that cities with procedures in place to study domestic violencerelated deaths are successful in driving down their homicide rate.

OUR VISION

Smart, effective, and responsible justice

In other words, a criminal justice system where:

- Public safety is the most important priority
- We strive to prevent and deter crime
- We stay abreast of the research, including the emerging literature on neuroscience, and employ evidence-based practices

- We work with and prosecute people as individuals
- We systematically assess and address offenders' criminogenic needs, rather than just their actions
- We maximize limited public resources

.....and we do so simultaneously

SMART JUSTICE WORKS!



PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS

- Drug Court
- Mental Health Court

Veterans Court

Diversion

SPECIALIZED UNITS

Domestic Crimes Unit

Gun Violence Reduction Initiative (GVRI)

Gangs Unit

Career Criminal Unit

OFFENDER SERVICES



SEALING AND EXPUNGING PROGRAM

Source: Prescott, J. and Starr, S., Expungement of Criminal Convictions: An Empirical Study (March 16, 2019), Harvard Law Review, Forthcoming; University of Michigan Law & Econ Research Paper No. 19-001. Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=3353620 or http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3353620

- Over a decade ago, we started the "Second Chance" Program that helps people overcome the stigma that often accompanies an arrest or conviction by sealing and expunging their records according to law
- We've hosted approximately 90 events since 2011 (an average of almost 10 per year), the year we began keeping records. During that time, over 13,000 people requested our assistance. Of that number, we identified over 7,000 eligible people and helped them with their applications

SEALING AND EXPUNGING PROGRAM (CON'T)

Source: Prescott, J. and Starr, S., Expungement of Criminal Convictions: An Empirical Study (March 16, 2019), Harvard Law Review, Forthcoming; University of Michigan Law & Econ Research Paper No. 19-001. Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=3353620 or http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3353620

- As word has gotten out, our program has become increasingly popular. In 2019 alone, over 1,900 people requested our assistance, including over 1,200 who were eligible for relief
- Research shows that programs like ours can reduce recidivism and improve participants' earning capacity

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER



DISCUSSION



ENABLE PROJECT PARTNERS

- Catalyst Miami
- The Center for Independent Living of South Florida
- Disability Independence Group
- Advocacy Network on Disabilities
- Enable Project Advisors



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 14, 2022 – Public Hearing on the Tenant Bill of Rights

May I - I0, 2022 - I0 Days of Connection

May 5, 2022 – Lean on Me: An Inclusive Musical Experience

May 23, 2022 – Technology and Accessible Communication

CILSF Activities: https://www.cilsf.org/calendarofevents

PRESENTATION MATERIALS

https://www.justdigit.org/resources-2/

YouTube Channel – Enable Project Playlist

THANK YOU!





https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/enable041122